

Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

Micah: What God Wants

Micah 6:8 (ESV)

⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to **do justice**, and to **love kindness**, and to **walk humbly with your God**?

God wants **justice** ...

Micah 3:1,8-9 (ESV)

¹ And I said: Hear, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Is it not for you to know **justice**?

⁸ But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with **justice** and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin. ⁹ Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who detest **justice** and make crooked all that is straight ...

Micah addressed the issues of injustice in the _____ (3:1-4), the _____ (3:5-8), and the _____ (3:9-12).

For justice to come, _____ must be _____ and _____!

Micah 3:8 (ESV)

⁸ ... I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, **to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin**.

Justice demands we go beyond the surface of _____ to the underlying _____ of all sin.

Micah 3:2 (ESV)

² you who hate the good and love the evil ...

What do we need to understand about **biblical justice**?

Proverbs 28:5 (ESV)

⁵ Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it completely.

Isaiah 30:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

The starting point for those who genuinely desire justice is _____!

Biblical justice requires a proper understanding of _____ and its many effects.

Exodus 18:20 ...

Romans 3:10 ...

Therefore, for any real justice to take place in this world, _____ must happen.

We understand justice only through the lens of _____, who satisfied _____ justice.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

We are *justified* ...

This ought to enable us to ...

Real justice requires the _____ of the Gospel on a societal scale.

We cannot look at the poor and the oppressed and callously call them to pull themselves out of their own difficulty. Jesus did not treat us that way. The gospel replaces superiority toward the poor with mercy and compassion. Christian churches must work for justice and peace in their neighborhoods through service even as they call individuals to conversion and the new birth. We must work for the eternal and common good and show our neighbors we love them sacrificially whether they believe as we do or not. Indifference to the poor and disadvantaged means there has not been a true grasp of our salvation by sheer grace.

- The Gospel Coalition's *Theological Vision of Ministry*

Some **hindrances**:

Our _____

Our _____

Our limited view of _____ and _____

Our limited view of the _____

God wants **kindness** ...

Another word for "kindness" here is _____ or _____.

God wants to reveal his _____ to the world.

We have already seen His divine _____ (4:1-7)

He is also perfectly _____ (6:1-5)

And He is altogether _____ (7:18-20)

Micah 7:18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸ Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰ You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

What is **biblical mercy**?

Mercy is the generosity, tenderness of heart, and kindness of soul that is moved to alleviate the sufferings of others. It is one of the characteristics that mark the children of God, for God Himself is "rich in mercy" (Eph. 2:4). The Scriptures are full of descriptions of the mercy of God, whose "mercies never come to an end" (Lam. 3:22). He revealed Himself to Moses as "the Lord, a God merciful and gracious" (Ex. 34:6). God's grace is a kindness shown to those who are guilty and deserve punishment, and mercy is a kindness shown to such in their suffering. It is similar to pity, and those who are the "blessed" of God are marked by a heart of mercy toward those who are suffering and in need of relief and comfort.

- Gary Steward, Ligonier

Mercy and the Gospel ...

God wants **faithfulness** ...

In every passage in Micah that reveals the severity of God's judgment, we also read of the sweet hope of His _____ . (M. Dever)

The Father is always working to _____ to right relationship with Him!

Micah 4:8-10 (ESV)

⁸ And you, O tower of the flock, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, the former dominion shall come, kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem. ⁹ Now why do you cry aloud? Is there no king in you? Has your counselor perished, that pain seized you like a woman in labor? ¹⁰ Writhe and groan, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you shall go out from the city and dwell in the open country; you shall go to Babylon. There you shall be rescued; there the LORD will redeem you from the hand of your enemies.

Micah 7:8-9 (ESV)

⁸ Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me. ⁹ I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me out to the light; I shall look upon his vindication.

God allows (and sometimes causes) misery in our lives in order to break our hearts and bend our wills so that we _____ and _____ to Him.

He then promises _____ to us for walking faithfully/consistently with Him.

Next week: Micah, pt. 3

Who God Is

